UN Report on poor quality of drinking water

2601. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a development report of the United Nations which has categorized our country amongst the worst countries for poor quality of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report ranks 122 countries according to the quality of their water as well as their ability and commitment to improve the situation. India has been placed at serial number 120 in this list.

(c) Since urban water supply is a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies to provide safe/potable drinking water to the population living in urban areas by treating surface and ground water to make it fit for human consumption. The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has provided grant-in-aid and assistance from World Health Organization to the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for conducting research and development on water quality surveillance in selected cities in the country.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water supply has already taken action for solving quality problem of drinking water in rural areas. Sub-Mission projects were sanctioned from 1994—98 for addressing quality problem. After 1.4.98, Power to plan, sanction and implement Sub-Mission projects have been delegated to the States. 15% of Accelerated Rural Water supply Programme funds are earmarked for tackling quality problem. States are required to contribute 25% of this amount as matching share from their resources.